

**Central Indiana Senior Fund**

**2016 Grant Guidelines**

**About the Central Indiana Senior Fund’s Grantmaking Program**

The Central Indiana Senior Fund (CISF) invests in organizations and programs that serve seniors (age 55 and older) who are low to moderate income and/or isolated from community resources and opportunities. Our competitive grants enable organizations to provide effective programs and respond to the needs of seniors in the neighborhoods and communities that they serve. Special consideration will be given to organizations that have not received CISF funding within the prior two years.

**Proposal Concept Form – Due May 13th, 2016**

To be eligible to compete in the July 2016 application cycle, every organization looking to submit an application must submit a 2016 CISF Proposal Concept Form to The Foundation ***no later*** than midnight on May 13th, 2016. The Proposal Concept Form can be found on the CISF website, and should be submitted to Alyse Vail at alysev@cicf.org.

**Types and Size of Grant Awards**

The Senior Fund typically awards grants to provide operating, program and capacity building support. Grant size ranges from $5,000 to $40,000.

* Operating – Operating requests are considered up to $40,000 for organizations that serve our target population by mission, with seniors accounting for no less than 90% of overall constituency.
* Program – Program requests are considered from $5,000 to $25,000, and the 90% threshold does not apply.
* Capacity Building – typically proposals by invitation only.

**Criteria Used to Review and Select Grant Awards**

**Proven Success**

 Does the organization and its programs have clearly defined outcomes towards which it is working? Does the organization and its programs have a track record of achieving its goals? Has the organization and its programs demonstrated the ability to measure success and impact? Does the organization and its programs incorporate best practice approaches to serve its target population?

**Strong Leadership**

 Does the organization have a clear mission and a plan for how it will achieve its mission? Does the organization have the appropriate management and board leadership to provide direction and oversight?

**Sustainability**

 Has the organization demonstrated its ability to attract the resources necessary to maintain its work? Does the organization have appropriate growth strategies? Does the organization have a future plan for sustaining the work for this proposal?

**Effective Operations**

 Does the organization have the appropriate staff and internal systems to be efficient and effective? Is the organization fiscally responsible?

**Engagement**

 Are the constituents, partners and community leaders informed, involved and invested in the success of the organizations efforts? Does the organization engage its constituents in planning and evaluation?

**Collaboration**

 Can the organization bring together the strengths of multiple organizations to advance their mutual goals, share their combined knowledge and reduce duplication of efforts?

**Innovation and Creativity**

 Is the organization creative in addressing the needs of the target population? Is the organization nimble and able to evolve to respond to the needs of its constituents and the community?

**What We Fund**

We make grants to not-for-profit organizations whose work falls into one or more of these elements:

**Basic Needs**

* Efforts to remove barriers to community resources, such as transportation, access to nutritious food, case management or emergency services
* Efforts that protect seniors from abuse and neglect

**Health and Wellness**

* Efforts that increase information and access to health care services
* Efforts that provide in-home health care, caregiver support, or low-cost health equipment options
* Neighborhood based, best-practice community wellness and fitness programs

**Living Environment of Choice**

* Efforts that provide safe and affordable housing and support services
* Efforts that provide home care, maintenance and modification services that enable seniors to remain in their homes
* Efforts that increase the safety, connectivity and accessibility of neighborhoods
* Efforts that strengthen quality residential care programs

**Life Affirming Opportunities**

* Efforts that increase access to cultural and educational opportunities, work training and placement and life-long learning
* Efforts that increase access to volunteerism and civic engagement
* Efforts that reduce isolation and increase access to community resources

**What We Don’t Fund**

* Annual requests for support
* Organizations that are NOT tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) Public Charity of the Internal Revenue Code
* Grants to individuals
* Political campaigns or activities intended to influence public officials
* Projects aimed at promoting a particular religion
* Construction projects of schools, churches or other religious institutions
* Special events or fundraising activities
* Post event or after-the-fact situations or debt retirement
* Basic medical, scientific or academic research
* Organizations or projects that discriminate based upon race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation

**2016 Grant Timetable**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Proposal Concept | Application Invitation | Applications Accepted | Staff Review | Board funding Decision | Notification |
| Rolling acceptance but ***no later*** than May 13 | June 17th | July 1 – July 31 | August - September | October | Late October |

**Our Review Process**

* Interested organizations are asked to complete a proposal concept form which will be reviewed by staff and Senior Fund Advisors.
* Eligible applicants will be invited to make formal application.
* After receiving applications, CICF staff will review each application.
* Staff will provide preliminary recommendations to grantmaking committees for their review and funding decisions.
* The Senior Fund Advisory Board will meet to make final funding decisions.
* Funding decisions will be communicated to applicant.

*\*The Central Indiana Senior Fund Advisory Board reserves the right to change these guidelines or to make grants outside of these guidelines if it deems necessary to meet their mission.*